

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Honorable William P. Clark
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
345 Old Executive Building
17th and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20506

Re: Executive Order on Classification

Dear Mr. Clark:

In response to Edwin Meese's 23 December 1981 letter, set forth below are the Agency's comments on the draft revision of Executive Order 12065. Each of these comments is keyed to the section and page numbers of the draft order attached to the 23 December 1981 letter.

With respect to these proposed changes, I think that it is particularly necessary to include a definition of "cryptology" in the Order which accurately reflects the current Intelligence Community understanding as to the respective responsibilities of the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) and the Secretary of Defense. By the terms of this understanding, the DCI is responsible for signals intelligence (SIGINT) and SIGINT security policy and the Secretary of Defense is responsible for communications security (COMSEC) matters. "Cryptology," as presently defined in the Intelligence Community Glossary, includes both SIGINT and COMSEC. The definition of "cryptology" suggested herein would limit that term for purposes of this Order to "cryptography and communications security" and would thus accord with the current understanding of DCI and Secretary of Defense responsibilities in this area.

Overall, I think the draft revision is a significant improvement over the existing order on classification. I support wholeheartedly the greater emphasis that has been placed in this draft on the protection of national security information, and the elimination of many of the burdensome and unnecessary requirements of current Executive Order 12065.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence